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Amended

operatively linked to a nucleotide sequence encoding a heterologous polypeptide, wherein said isolated nucleic acid molecule encodes a fusion polypeptide.

9. **(Amended)** A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of any one of claims 1, 2, 5, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, [or] 38, 40, or 41.

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11. **(Amended)** A recombinant host cell comprising the nucleic acid molecule of any one of claims 1, 2, 5, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, [or] 38, 40, or 41 operatively linked to a recombinant regulatory sequence.

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38. **(Amended)** An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence which encodes a fragment of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, 5, or 8, wherein the fragment comprises at least [15] 25 contiguous amino acid residues of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, 5, or 8.

Please add new claims 40-41 as follows:

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40. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence which encodes a fragment of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, 5, or 8, wherein the fragment comprises at least 50 contiguous amino acid residues of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, 5, or 8.

41. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence which encodes a fragment of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, 5, or 8, wherein the fragment comprises at least 100 contiguous amino acid residues of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, 5, or 8.

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 12 and 27-39 were pending in the application. Claims 8, 9, 11, and 38 have been amended, and new claims 40 and 41 have been added. Accordingly, claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 12, and 27-41 are currently pending. For the Examiner's convenience all of the pending claims are set forth in Appendix A.

Support for the amendments to the claims can be found throughout the specification including the originally filed claims. Specifically, support for the amendments to claim 8 can be

APPENDIX A

1. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 or a complement thereof.
2. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence which encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2, or a complement thereof.
4. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence which encodes a naturally occurring allelic variant of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein the nucleic acid molecule hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule consisting of SEQ ID NO:1 or 3 in 6X SSC at 45° C, followed by one or more washes in 0.2X SSC, 0.1% SDS at 50-65° C.
5. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence which is at least 59% identical to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, 3, 4, 6, 7, or 9, or a complement thereof.
8. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleic acid molecule of any one of claims 1, 2, 5, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 40, or 41 operatively linked to a nucleotide sequence encoding a heterologous polypeptide, wherein said isolated nucleic acid molecule encodes a fusion polypeptide.
9. A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of any one of claims 1, 2, 5, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 40, or 41.
10. The vector of claim 9, which is an expression vector.
11. A recombinant host cell comprising the nucleic acid molecule of any one of claims 1, 2, 5, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 40, or 41 operatively linked to a recombinant regulatory sequence.
12. A method of producing a polypeptide comprising culturing the host cell of claim 11 under suitable conditions to, thereby, produce the polypeptide.
27. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3 or a complement thereof.

28. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:4 or a complement thereof.

29. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:6 or a complement thereof.

30. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:7 or a complement thereof.

31. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:9 or a complement thereof.

32. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence which encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 5, or a complement thereof.

33. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence which encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 8, or a complement thereof.

34. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence which encodes a naturally occurring allelic variant of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:5, wherein the nucleic acid molecule hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule consisting of SEQ ID NO:4 or 6 in 6X SSC at 45° C, followed by one or more washes in 0.2X SSC, 0.1% SDS at 50-65° C.

35. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence which encodes a naturally occurring allelic variant of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:8, wherein the nucleic acid molecule hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule consisting of SEQ ID NO:7 or 9 in 6X SSC at 45° C, followed by one or more washes in 0.2X SSC, 0.1% SDS at 50-65° C.

36. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a fragment of at least 461 nucleotides of a nucleic acid comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, 3, 4, 6, 7, or 9, or a complement thereof.

37. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence which encodes a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence at least about 60% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, 5, or 8.

38. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence which encodes a fragment of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, 5, or 8, wherein the fragment comprises at least 25 contiguous amino acid residues of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, 5, or 8.

39. A method of expressing a polypeptide comprising the step of culturing the host cell of claim 11 under conditions in which the nucleic acid molecule is expressed, thereby expressing the polypeptide.

40. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence which encodes a fragment of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, 5, or 8, wherein the fragment comprises at least 50 contiguous amino acid residues of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, 5, or 8.

42. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence which encodes a fragment of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, 5, or 8, wherein the fragment comprises at least 100 contiguous amino acid residues of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, 5, or 8.